



Orders conceiued and thought fit,

aswell by the Lord Maior of the City of London and the Aldermen his Brethren, as by the Iustices of Peace in the Countie of Middlesex, the Borough of Southwarke, and

County of Surrey to be obserued within their seuerall limits respectively, in the time of the infection of the Plague, (if it shall so please Almighty God) for suppression and preuention of the dispersing thereof, according to the Statute in that behalf made in Parliament in the first year of the Raigne of our Soueraigne Lord King IAMES.



IN PRIMIS, that in every parish of the said Citie, and Borough within towne miles of the same, there be appointed according to the Statute, Examiners, Searchers, Watchmen, and Buriers of the dead, who upon oath to them giuen, shall discharge their duties as they shall bee directed in that behalfe. The charge of the allowance to them to be made, to bee borne by the party, whose house is or shall be visited (if he be able), if not, then by the parish, or by an equall taxation thereof to be made and subscribed by the Alderman of the ward within the Citie, or liberties thereof, and Borough of Southwarke, and by the two next Iustices of Peace, out of the Citie. Provided also, that where any parish is so situated as one parte thereof is within the said Citie, and liberties thereof, or Borough of Southwarke, and the other parte in eyther of the said counties, that there the said Taxes to be made, and the said Examiners, Searchers, Watchmen and Buriers to be appointed by the said Lord Maior, Aldermen and Iustices respectively within their seuerall limits.

Item the Examiners are to learne out and enquire what houses in every parish be visited, aswell before death as after: before death, by taking knowledge of every one that is sicke, and of what disease so neare as he can be informed: and after death, by the report of the searchers: and he is to make knowe to the next Constable what persons are indeed, or suspected to be sicke of the Plague, and to giue present notice to the same Constable of any such infected house, aswell before death as after.

Item that Watchmen are to attend the outward doores of every house visited, day and night, by standing neere vnto the doores in readines, aswell to giue warning to any that shall approach the house, as to prouide necessaries for them within a short tyme.

Item precise order to be taken that the Searchers, Keepers and Buriers, are not to passe the streetes without holding a red rod or wand of three foot in length in their hands, open and euident to be seene, and are not to go into any other house than into their owne, or into that wherunto they are directed or sent for: but to forbeare and abstaine from company, especially when they haue been lately used in any such busines or attendance.

Item if any the persons aforesaid, shall bee found to offend contrary to these directions, any the saide Aldermen or Iustices upon notice thereof, shall punish the party offending with imprisonment, and by withholding his allowance, or otherwise as they shall thinke fitt. And it is likewise left to their discretions how to punish and proceede against any person or persons, that shal meete for any of these employments, and yet refusing the same.

Item the Constables are to see every house visited, shutte vp, and to bee attended with watchmen, which may keepe them in, and minister necessaries vnto them, at their owne charges (if they be able) or at the common charge (if they be unable) the shutting vp to be for the space of foure weekes after all be whole.

Item a weekly tax is to be made in every parish visited, if in the Citie or Borough, then vnder the hand of the Alderman of the ward where the place is visited, if in either of the Counties, then vnder the hands of some of the Iustices next to the place visited, who, if there be cause may extend the tax into other parishes also, and may giue warrant of distresse against them which shall refuse to pay, and for want of distresse to commit the offenders to prison.

Item that none be remoued out of the house, where he falleth sicke of the infection, into any other house in the Citie, Borough or counties, except it be vnto some such house, as the owner of the said visited house, holdeth in his owne handes, and occupieth by his owne seruantes, from and out of the Citie, to the pesthouse: and so as securitie be giuen to the parish, whether such remouing be made, that the attendance and charge about the said visited persons, shall be obserued and discharged in all the particularities before expressed without any cost of that parish, to the which any such remouing shall fortune to be made. And it shal be lawfull to any person that hath two houses, to remoue either his sound or his infected people to his spare house (at his choice) so as if he send away first his sound he may not after send thither the sicke, nor againe vnto the sicke, the sound. And that the sound, which he sendeth, be for one week at the least shut vp and secluded from company for feare of some infections, at first not appearing.

Item that the statute be duely and seuerely executed against such as do go abroad out of a visited house with sores on them, or without sores, as the statute doth distinguish the same, (that is to say) those with sores on them, so offending, to be punished as felons, and without sores offending, to be punished by whipping.

Item that the buriall of the dead by this visitation be at most convenient houres, alwaies either before Sunne rising or after Sunne setting with the priuie of the Churchwardens, or Constable, and not otherwise: and that no neighbours, nor friends, be suffered to accompany the corpse to Church, or to enter the house visited to that ende, nor the same corpse be suffered to be brought within the church, nor any cloathes, stuffe, bedding, or garments be suffered to be carried or conueied out of any infected house, And that the cryers and carriers abroad of Bedding or old apparell to be sold or pawned, be utterly prohibited & restrained. And no Brokers of Bedding or of old apparell, be permitted to make any outward shew or hang forth on their stalles, shop boards or windowes towards any street, lane, common way, or passage any old bedding or apparell to be sold.

Item that all Daies, fensings, Bearebaitings, Games, singing of Ballets, Bucklerplay, and such like causes of assemblies of people upon needlesse occasions be utterly prohibited.

Item that the sweeping and sith of houses be not suffered to be laid in heapes in the streets, but to be caried away by the Scavengers, or Rakers from the kitchen to the cart, as heretofore hath been used, to auoyd annoyance and infection, especially of visited houses.

Item that the statute be duly and severely executed against such as do go abroad out of a visited house with sores on them, or without sores, as the statute both distinguish the same, (that is to say) those with sores on them, so offending, to be punished as felons, and without sores offending, to be punished by whipping.

Item that the buriall of the Dead by this visitation be at most convenient houres, alwaies either before Sunne rising or after Sunne setting with the priuie of the Churchwardens, or Constable, and not otherwise: and that no neighbours, nor friends, be suffered to accompany the coarfe to Church, or to enter the house visited to that ende, nor the same coarfe be suffered to be brought within the church, nor any cloathes, stuffe, bedding, or garments be suffered to be carried or conueyed out of any infected house, And that the cryers and carriers abroad of Bedding or old apparell to be sould or pawned, be utterly prohibited & restrained. And no Brokers of Bedding or of old apparel, be permitted to make any outward shew or hang forth on their stalles, shop boards or windowes towards any street, lane, common way, or passage any old bedding or apparell to be sold.

Item that all Plaies, fensings, Bearebaitings, Games, singing of Ballets, Bucklerplay, and such like causes & assemblies of people vpon needlesse occasions be utterly prohibited.

Item that the sweeping and filth of houses be not suffered to be laid in heapes in the streets, but to be caried away by the Scauengers, or Rakers from the kitchen to the cart, as heretofore hath been vied, to auoyd annoyance and infection, especially of visited houses.

Item that neither Hogges, Dogs, or cattes, be suffered to be, or stray in the streets, or lanes, of the citie or suburbes, nor places neere adioyning. But that the Hogges be impounded till the owners of them conforme themselves to better order, and the dogges to be killed by some appointed for that purpose.

Item if any person visited do fortune by negligent looking vnto, or by other meanes, to come or bee conueyed from a place infected to any other place, the parish from whence such party hath come or beene conueyed, vpon notice thereof giuen shall at their charge cause the said partie so visited and escaped, to be carried and brought backe again, and the parties in this case offending to be punished at the discretion of the Alderman of the warde and the Iustices of Peace respectively, and the house of the receiuer of such visited person to be shut vp.

Item that euery house visited be marked with a red Crosse of a foote long on the doze, euident to be seene, and with the usual printed words (that is to say) Lord haue mercy vpon vs, to be set ouer the same doze, there to continue, till lawfull opening of the same house.

Item that if any persons trusted or charged in this busines, or offending against any the foresaid Orders and Articles, be complained of to the Alderman of the warde within the Citie or Borough, or to any Iustice of Peace within the said Countiees for remissenes, partiality, stubbornenes, or other misbehauing themselves, and the same appeare to be true, present order be taken, that according to the quality of the offence, such persons be bound ouer with sureties to appeare at the next Sessions there to be proceeded against, for the example of others.

Item that the Lord Maior, euery Alderman and their Deputies, and the Iustices of Peace within their limits respectively, do once euery fortnight, or oftner, if neede be, call euery Examiner to account for the due execution of his charge, and duty in this busines.

Finally to the ende all persons, whom these Orders, or any of them doe or may in any sort concerne, may for their better obseruation thereof, take due notice of the same: It is thought fitte, and so ordered that the saide Orders be printed, openly reade, and published in euery Parish Church, at the most convenient time of the greatest assemblies there.

God saue the King.

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to the honourable Citie of London. 1608